organisation should have an dentity distinctly separate from the ' Central Government. The Committee has proposed that this organisation may be called ""telecom operating authority".

4. It is proposed that the Central Government should be responsible for the functions which are common to all the service providers namely:

(i) Standardisation (ii) Reearch and development (iii) Preperation and monitoring of the development plans, (iv) Regulation and management of frequency spectrum, (v) Management of relations with International Bodies.

5. The Central Government should create a statutory authority to moni tor and regulate the services and settle the disputes between the sub scribers and the service provider, or between two service poviders This authority has been given the name "telecom regulatory authority" and its duties and responsibilities have been listed in the proposed Act.

6 In order to make the Act service priented the duties and responsibili ties of the "service provider" and the "subscriber" have been listed in the proposed Act.

7 The section dealing with the sates for transmission of telecommu nications within and outside India is proposed to be modified and factors o be kept in view while fixing these rates have been listed.

8 The section relating to settle ment of disputes is proposed to have provision 'to deal with disputes bet- ween subscriber and the service pro vider and also the disputes between two service providers. The arbitrator is imposed to be appointed by the telecom regulating authority instead of the Central Government.

9. A modification in section dealing with fraudulent use of telecommunication sytem is proposed to widen it to include any person who dishonestly obtains tele-communication service with a view to avoid payment, and employee, helping him to do so.

10. A new section has been proposed to take care of the improper use of the telecommunication system by sending ma- licious and obscene telecommunications.

Negotiations with multinationals

*294. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVTYA;

Will the Minister of COMMUNI- CATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been negotiatnig with certain multinationals for the purpose-of placing order$_s$ with such multinationals which could agree on suppliers credit and: accept deferred payments;

(b) whether any final decision in this regard has been taken by Gove rnment and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what is the pre sent position

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) There is a proposal consideration of the Government to purchase recently validated switching systems from Indian Companies who have entered into collaboration with some multinationals to supply a few laKhs lines on deferred payments.

Bank Credit to Small Scale Industries

*295. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

da) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the report appearing in the 'Hindu' dated the 12th. June, 1993 regarding harsher" lending practices by banks in respect! of small scale industries leading to sickness;

(b) if so, what is the factual position; and